(1) amendments to Patents Act, 1970.

(2) amendments to Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958;

(3) replacement of Designs Act., 1911;

(4) geographical indications of goods (Registration and Protection) Bill 1999;

(5) extending the scope of the Plan Scheme of 'mass communication' for productivity;

(6) setting up of a National Benchmarking Clearing House of India;

(7) launching up of National Quality Campaign involving Quality Council of India;

(8) operationalisation of National Information and Enquiry System relating to standards;

(9) the national Accreditation Board for certification bodies and the national Accreditation Board for Auditors will commence their activities shortly;

(10) passing off of Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill;

(11) simplification of procedures for importers and exporters

(12) formulation of an Integrated Transport Policy;

(13) corporatisation of State Electricity Boards; and

(14) formulation of a new competition policy.

Legislation for Strengthening the Intellectual Property Rights

538. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to introduce a number of bills for strengthening the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) regime in the Winter Session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details of the amending bills and main features thereof; and

(c) whether special appellate courts are likely to be set up to decide the cases relating to Trade Related Property Rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Bills are likely to cover aspects of Intellectual Property such as trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications and patents.

(c) The Trade Marks Bill, 1999 provide for setting up of Intellectual Property Appellate Board.

Indian Trade Development Council

†539. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have constituted Indian Trade Development Council for promoting foreign trade in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons nominated or appointed in the Council;

(c) the names of countries where the offices of said council are situated; and

(d) the detail of annual expenditure incurred by Government on this Council?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Ban On Export of Meat, Fruits and Vegetables

†540. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Law Commission has recommended to ban the export of meat, fruits and vegetables due to shortage and excessive price hike in the country;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.